

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 – 25 (canceled)

26. (new) A server coupled to plurality of a user terminal via a network, comprising:

a memory unit; and

a control unit;

wherein said memory unit stores information items corresponding to a user including identification information of said user terminal to be used by said user, location information of said user terminal, and communication status for said user terminal, together with a relationship among the identification as a first layer, the location information as a second layer, and the communication status as a third layer;

for each of said user terminals, the level of the first layer is higher than that of the second layer, and the level of the second layer is higher than that of the third layer;

the memory unit further also stores an operation for said information items including an open operation as a fourth layer, a read operation as a fifth layer, and a write operation as a sixth layer;

a level of said fourth layer is higher than that of said fifth layer, and the level of said fifth layer is higher than that of said sixth layer;

the memory unit further stores a relationship between each of said information items and a permission attribute for executing said operations for said information items; and

when there is a request from the user terminal to permit executing one of said operations for one of said information items, the control unit

changes said permission attribute from non-permission to permission; and

refers to the layer of said operation to be requested for changing the permission,

wherein if one of said fourth layer, said fifth layer and said sixth layer has a level that is higher than the level of the layer of said operation related to said request, the control unit

sets a permission attribute of the operation layer to a level that is higher than that of the layer corresponding to said operation, and

refers to the layer of said information item,

wherein if one of said first layer, said second layer and said third layer has a level that is higher than that of said information item,

the control unit sets a permission attribute of the information item layer to a level that is higher than that of the layer corresponding to said information item.

27. (new) The server according to claim 26,

wherein when there is a request from the user terminal to refuse executing one of said operations for one of the information items, said control unit

changes said permission attribute from permission to non-permission, and refers to the layer of said operation to be requested for changing permission, if one of said fourth layer, said fifth layer and said sixth layer has a level that is lower than that of said operation related to said request, the control unit sets a permission attribute of the operation layer to a level that is lower than that of the layer corresponding to said operation, and refers to layer of said information item, wherein if one of said first layer, said second layer and said third layer has a level that is lower than that of said information item, the control unit sets a permission attribute of the information item layer to a level that is lower than that of the layer corresponding to said information item.

28. (new) The server according to claim 26, wherein said communication status is presence information of said user terminal or availability information of said user terminal.

29. (new) The server according to claim 27, wherein said communication status is presence information if said user terminal or availability information of said terminal.